

# **Pinellas County**

*Pinellas County Cooperative Extension  
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo*



## **Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, June 8, 2021**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting**

## **Board of County Commissioners**

*Dave Eggers, Chair  
Charlie Justice, Vice-Chair  
Rene Flowers  
Pat Gerard  
Janet C. Long  
Kathleen Peters  
Karen Williams Seel*

**ROLL CALL - 9:37 A.M.**

**Present:** 7 - Chair Dave Eggers, Vice-Chair Charlie Justice, Rene Flowers, Pat Gerard, Janet C. Long, Kathleen Peters, and Karen Williams Seel

**Others Present:** Barry Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; Jeanette Phillips, Chief Deputy Director Finance Division; and Chris Bartlett, Board Records Supervisor.

Chair Eggers related that the anniversary of D-Day had recently passed; and that many American men and women had died that day to secure our freedoms, which is deserving of recognition.

**INVOCATION by Pastor William Sherman, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Clearwater.****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS****1. Pride Month Proclamation:**

- Jeffrey Lorick, Director, Office of Human Rights
- Todd Richardson, St. Petersburg Development Officer, Equality Florida Action, Inc.
- Nathan Bruemmer, Board President, St Pete Pride

Chair Eggers invited Messrs. Lorick, Richardson, and Bruemmer to the podium and presented them with a proclamation recognizing the month of June 2021 as Pride Month; whereupon, the group provided brief comments and thanked the Commissioners for their continued emphasis on inclusivity. Additionally, Mr. Burton congratulated Mr. Lorick on his recent appointment as Director of the Office of Human Rights.

**2. Partner Presentation:****Hurricane Season Kickoff**

- Catherine Perkins, Director, Emergency Management

Ms. Perkins appeared and provided information pertaining to the County's preparations for the upcoming hurricane season, including an increase in community collaboration, comprehensive training for personnel, organizational changes to the Emergency Operations Center, the expansion of deployable communications capabilities, an updated Emergency Management plan, and ongoing analyses to improve the effectiveness of evacuations.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, she further emphasized the importance of hurricane readiness and discussed her Department's efforts to be a resource for the community through accessible hurricane preparedness guides and enhanced safety measures in shelters.

In response to a query by Commissioner Flowers, Ms. Perkins elaborated on available accommodations for vulnerable populations in emergency evacuation shelters, and Mr. Burton provided input.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**All Public Hearing items have been properly advertised. Affidavits of Publication have been received and are on file in the Board Records Department.**

## AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Countywide Planning Authority

3. Case No. CW 20-16 - City of St. Petersburg  
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Public/Semi-Public and Residential Low Medium to Residential Medium and Residential Low Medium, regarding 4.37 acres more or less, located at 635 64th Street South, St. Petersburg.

Ordinance No. 21-12 adopted authorizing the Countywide Plan Map amendment. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the proposal, and staff concurred. 292 comments in opposition of the amendment have been received.

Forward Pinellas Planning Division Manager Rodney Chatman provided background information, referred to aerial maps and photographs, and described the existing uses of the property and the surrounding parcels. He noted that staff has found the proposed change to be consistent with Countywide rules and recommends approval of the amendment.

In response to queries by the members, Mr. Chatman noted that a discrepancy exists between the land use designations of the City and the County; that categories at the countywide level are more broad, allowing local governments to be more restrictive; and that should the members approve the amendment, the case would return to the City for final action.

Derek Kilborn, City of St. Petersburg Urban Planning and Historic Preservation Division Manager, indicated that the City's Community Planning and Preservation Commission initially voted to deny the request; that the application was subsequently appealed to the St. Petersburg City Council where it received unanimous approval; that opponents organized themselves as PGSP Neighbors United and filed a petition with the State Division of Administrative Hearings last September to challenge the City's decision; and that the City's analysis has been independently affirmed by the administrative law judge, the Planners Advisory Committee, and Forward Pinellas.

Mr. Kilborn indicated that because the city level process is complete, the Board's action would be the final action on the application; and that while 64th Street South does not

currently have a dedicated bus line, it is classified as a future major street in St. Petersburg's comprehensive plan and thus, it will continue to receive improvements in targeted infrastructure investments; whereupon, he discussed a Coastal High Hazard Area portion of the subject property, stating that as it is part of the application, the development potential of the area will be reduced, making it consistent with the Countywide Plan.

Responding to queries by the members, Mr. Kilborn elaborated on the site's current map arrangement, options for development if the application were to be rejected, current levels of service for traffic on nearby roadways, and the process taken to verify ownership of the property, and discussion ensued.

Upon call by the Chair for public comment, the following individuals expressed their concerns:

Larry Galantis, St. Petersburg (speaking on behalf of others in attendance)

Carol Plisga, St. Petersburg

John Bailey, St. Petersburg (submitted documents)

Joe Thompson, St. Petersburg

Scott Macdonald, St. Petersburg

Greg Pound, Largo

Lisa Wright, St. Petersburg

Jan Wampler, St. Petersburg

Janese Davis, St. Petersburg

Michael Dema, St. Petersburg

Tom Whalen, St. Petersburg

Nash Licon, St. Petersburg

Kailyn Bigby, St. Petersburg

Janet Carney, St. Petersburg

Elizabeth Abernathy, St. Petersburg

Jeffrey Williams, St. Petersburg

Mitchell Carney, St. Petersburg

Robert Bigby, St. Petersburg

Referring to an earlier query by Commissioner Flowers regarding 64th Street South, Mr. Kilborn referred to traffic studies submitted with the application and noted that the roadway is currently operating at 47% capacity; and that there is substantial room for additional growth.

In rebuttal to public comment, Assistant City Attorney Heather Judd appeared and stated that the City did its due diligence in verifying the ownership of the property through the Pinellas County Property Appraiser; that local governments are not required to recover original data such as church bylaws and related histories; and that the City's plan categories are more specific than the County's and have been upheld.

In response to queries by the members, Mr. Kilborn related that multiple map

categorizations are requested in the application due to portions of the site being in the Coastal High Hazard Area; and that the City is the proper applicant, and discussion ensued regarding the Authority's role in the application process and the zoning categorizations of adjacent properties.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Peters

**Nay:** 1 - Commissioner Seel

**Meeting recessed: 12:14 P.M.**

**Meeting reconvened: 12:45 P.M.**

4. (To be withdrawn) Case No. CW 21-06 - City of St. Petersburg (Continued from April 13, 2021) Countywide Plan Map amendment from Employment & Target Employment Center to Multimodal Corridor & Target Employment Center, regarding 29.11 acres more or less, located at 1501 72nd Street North, St. Petersburg.

Attorney White confirmed that the application should be withdrawn at this time; and that no further action was needed by the Board.

#### CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

5. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

Sandra Stepanek, Tierra Verde  
Sharon Calvert, Tierra Verde  
Robert Mueller, Tierra Verde  
Karen Wise, Tierra Verde  
Brad O'Brien, Tierra Verde  
Tommy Holmes, Tierra Verde  
Shielia Nagley, Tierra Verde  
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor  
Mack Johnson, Largo  
Greg Pound, Largo  
David Waddell, Clearwater  
David Sillman, Tarpon Springs  
Phillip Bergquist, Tierra Verde

Responding to concerns voiced by the residents of Tierra Verde, Mr. Burton reported that the topic of the Grand Canal would be discussed further at a workshop in July and in virtual community meetings in August or September.

**CONSENT AGENDA - Items 6 through 10**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the Consent Agenda items be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Long

## CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

6. Vouchers and bills paid from April 25 through May 8, 2021.

Period: April 25 through May 1, 2021

Accounts Payable - \$27,053,387.83

Payroll - \$3,982,241.37

Period: May 2 through May 8, 2021

Accounts Payable - \$43,242,530.47

Payroll - None

**Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

Reports received for filing:

7. Report of Expenses Incurred Under Incentives, Awards, and Recruitment Ordinance No. 07-26 for the quarter ended March 31, 2021.

**Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Utilities

8. Award of bid to Polydyne, Inc. for wastewater polymers.

Bid No. 21-0091-B approved for an average annual amount of \$528,448.65 for a 60-month term; total amount of \$2,642,243.24 awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications. Bids from Nalco Company, LLC and Fort Bend Services, Inc. rejected as non-responsive for not meeting minimum bid requirements.

**Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

9. Award of bid to Instrument Specialties, Inc. for Siemens variable frequency drives replacement, parts, maintenance, and repairs for the Utilities Department.

Bid No. 190-0739-B approved for an average annual amount of \$279,600.00 for a 60-month term; total amount of \$1,398,000.00 awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications. Bid of Siemens Industry, Inc. rejected as non-responsive for not meeting bid requirements.

**Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

## AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

### Countywide Planning Authority

10. Countywide Plan Map adjustment submitted by the City of Clearwater.

**Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

## REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None.

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

### Housing & Community Development

11. Historic preservation ad valorem tax exemptions for five recently renovated historic properties located in the City of St. Petersburg.

Resolution Nos. 2021-34, 2021-35, 2021-36, 2021-37, and 2021-38 adopted authorizing a County historic preservation ad valorem tax exemption and authorizing the Chair to be a signatory party on the covenant for each of the following properties:

- The single-family residence at 556 Beach Drive Northeast
- The single-family residence at 956 39th Avenue North
- The single-family residence at 406 14th Avenue Northeast
- The commercial building at 1180 Central Avenue
- The single-family residence at 336 9th Avenue Northeast

The exemption applies only to the increase in the value of improvements after renovation, as determined by the Pinellas County Property Appraiser, and is requested for a period of ten years.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Seel, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Long

Human Services

12. Funding recommendations for the 2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant-Countywide and related grant administration documents.

Recommendations submitted by the Substance Abuse Advisory Board and execution of grant documents approved. Florida Department of Law Enforcement has allocated \$236,358.00 for Pinellas County to support seven projects; no local match required.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

13. Third Amendment to the Behavioral Health Consulting Services Agreement with KPMG, LLP for the evaluation of the Pinellas County Adult Behavioral Health System.

(Contract No. 190-0003-LI) Amendment approved in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000.00 for the design of a Coordinated Access Model (CAM) as the commencement of Phase 3 of the project; for a revised total contract value of \$2,119,742.00 with an annual amount of \$1,059,871.00 through July 31, 2022.

Upon call by the Chair for public comment, Marty Brinsko, St. Pete Beach, and Michael Torop, Largo, appeared and expressed their concerns. In response, Mr. Burton elaborated on the CAM design and the plan to implement a new healthcare access model; whereupon, he provided information on current levels of behavioral care service in the county, and Human Services Director Karen Yatchum provided input.

Responding to queries by the members, Ms. Yatchum discussed performance metrics, collaborative efforts with community healthcare providers, and future plans to incorporate aspects of a unified community information exchange with the CAM, and discussion ensued.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel



Management and Budget

14. Ratification of acceptance of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal stimulus funds for Emergency Rental Assistance and authorization for County Administrator to accept the Fiscal Recovery Funds and other ARPA funds that may be available at a later date.

Acceptance of ARPA Emergency Rental Assistance funds ratified in the amount of \$24,395,835.40. Authorization granted to the County Administrator to accept ARPA Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in the amount of \$189,381,543.00 and to accept other ARPA funds that may be available at a later date.

Office of Management and Budget Director Bill Berger provided information regarding the programs, noting that the funds have already been accepted; and that ratification is needed due to a timing issue related to the expiration of the prior local state of emergency. In response to a query by Chair Eggers, he noted that the County has until December 31, 2024 to obligate the funds.

Messrs. Burton and Berger responded to queries by the members and shared information regarding the timetable for obligating the ARPA funds and the collaborative efforts to create joint programs with municipalities and other counties.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gerard, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Safety and Emergency Services

15. Issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for provision of Helicopter Ambulance Service in Pinellas County.

Certificate approved and issued to Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, Med-Trans Florida, d/b/a LifeLine, in accordance with Pinellas County Code Chapter 54 and Florida Statutes, Section 401.25. Certificate to expire December 31, 2022.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

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**AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS****Business Technology Services**

- 16.** Agreement with Insight Public Sector, Inc. to purchase technology products and services requested by the Business Technology Services department.

Contract No. 21-0444-PB approved in an average annual amount of \$475,000.00 for a twenty-four-month total of \$950,000.00 through April 30, 2023. Pricing is based on County of Fairfax/OMNIA Partners Contract No. 4400006644.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

**Emergency Medical Services Authority**

- 17.** Issuance and renewal of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for non-medical wheelchair transport and stretcher van providers.

Sitting as the Emergency Medical Services Authority, certificates renewed and issued to 15 providers as set forth in the Staff Report and in accordance with Pinellas County Code Section 54; certificates to expire on June 30, 2022. Seven of the 15 providers have applied to render both wheelchair and stretcher services.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

**Human Resources**

- 18.** Increase the upset limit to the agreement with United HealthCare Services, Inc. for requirements of employee assistance and managed behavioral programs.

Contract No. 178-0395-P approved increasing the upset limit in the amount of \$302,400.00 for a revised contract total of \$1,408,380.00 through December 31, 2021.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- 19.** Proposed settlement in the case of Samuel Dirienzo v. Pinellas County; Workers' Compensation, Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims Case No. 16-021178RLY (consolidating 21-002973RLY; 21-005972RLY; 18-012556RLY; and 17-000044RLY).

Settlement approved in accordance with the confidential memorandum of June 8, 2021.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

**20. County Attorney Reports:**

- Redistricting Update

Attorney White indicated that there was no update at this time.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

**21. County Administrator Reports.**

Mr. Burton related that local COVID-19 counts were trending downward; that the County's coronavirus dashboard will be shut down as a result of the state eliminating its data site; and that Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director Dr. Ulyee Choe would provide periodic manual reports to compensate.

Referring to Mr. Waddell's comments presented earlier during public comment, Mr. Burton elaborated on the selection process through which available properties are vetted for purchase using Penny for Pinellas funds; whereupon, he provided an update regarding the Tampa Bay Rays and the future redevelopment of the Tropicana Field site, noting that City of St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman has decided not to move forward in negotiations with the Rays because he is a party in a related lawsuit; and that there is still value in the County moving forward with a consultant to conduct an economic impact analysis of a potential arrangement with the Rays.

Discussion ensued regarding the financial viability of the team and the cost of hiring a consultant; whereupon, Chair Eggers indicated that with the Board's approval, he and Mr. Burton would attend a meeting with the Rays and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the team's new proposed business model.

COUNTY COMMISSION

**22. County Commission New Business: Pertinent and Timely Committee/Board Updates, Policy Considerations, Administrative/Procedural Considerations, and Other New Business**

- Reconsideration of the South CRA advisory committee appointment

Attorney White referred to the Board's recent appointment of Contemporary Housing Alternatives of Florida (CHAF) Senior Vice-President Tracy Mater to the Citizen Advisory Committee for the South Community Redevelopment Agency and indicated that existing contracts between CHAF and the City of St. Petersburg constitute a conflict of interest.

She noted that for advisory committees, the Board could decide to waive the conflict and keep the appointment, but that it would require a two-thirds vote to be successful, and discussion ensued.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the vacancy be re-advertised. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

**A motion was made by Commissioner Seel, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the appointment of Tracy Mater to the Citizen Advisory Committee for the South CRA be rescinded. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

The members provided updates regarding their assigned boards and committees and commented on various topics, as follows:

Commissioner Flowers

- Bus-on-Shoulder Program & Ceremony
- Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum

Commissioner Justice

- New historic marker in the City of Tarpon Springs

Commissioner Gerard

- Tampa Bay Lightning NHL playoffs

Commissioner Long

- Business Technology Services cybersecurity meeting
- Governor's veto of the appropriation for the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority

Chair Eggers

- Grand opening of Kahwa Coffee in Dunedin
- Funding for the design of the new Dunedin Causeway bridge

ADJOURNMENT - 2:54 P.M.

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By *Ken Burke*  
Deputy Clerk



*Dave Eggus*  
Chair